

# Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2023. The meeting was held in person and via zoom at the Anette Nature Center. Meeting called to order by President Mark Kickbush at 5:00 p.m.

Those present:

Mark Kickbush, President  
Ace Hendricks, Vice-president  
Joe Schettler, Secretary  
Sue Boll  
Angie Croll

Absent:

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Mark Wilson, Director  
Mallory Wells, Officer Manager  
Tyler Seuferer, Natural Resource Specialist  
Kelsey Freeman, EE Coordinator  
Hannah Hernandez, Naturalist

Guest:

Blake DePhillips, EEC Job Shadow  
Mark Metz

- i. Reading of the Minutes
    - a. Angie Croll made a motion to approve the April minutes as written. Sue Boll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
  - ii. Staff Reports.
    - a. Staff reports were reviewed.
  - iii. Business Agenda
    - a. New Business
      - i. Closed Session pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5 (i)
        1. Joe Schettler made a motion to move into closed session at 5:27pm. Ace Hendricks seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.
    - b. Approve Seasonal Hires
      - i. Summer Naturalist
        - a. Kelsey still has a few to interview and will have a decision by the next board meeting.
      - ii. Joe Schettler made a motion to approve the following seasonal hires:
        1. Vickie Morton, May 15, 2023, \$11.10 per hour
        2. Alan Allsup, May 15, 2023, \$11.10 per hour
        3. Monty Freeman, May 15, 2023, \$14.60 per hour
- Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

c. Boy Scouts use of Hickory Hills

- i. Andrew Wood with Boy Scout Troop is holding a ceremony at Hickory Hills. He inquired if Non-profits received a discount for the use of the Barn & Shelter. The Board discussed non-profits and Hickory Hills; at this time the board will not be making exceptions to the rental rates for Hickory Hills Park.

d. End of Year Budget

- i. The budget is looking good, and lines are in order.
- ii. Mark Wilson is working with budget director Meghan Minar for the fiscal year '24 budget. The Warren County Board of Supervisors has not finalized the fiscal year 24 budget yet.
- iii. Mark Wilson is working to make sure what we have left at the end of the Fiscal Year goes into our reserve account.

e. Old Business

i. Strategic Plan

1. The board received the Strategic Plan and would like to look at it quarterly.

f. Discussion Items

i. Upcoming Events

1. Dutch Oven cooking on May 12<sup>th</sup>
2. Friends Book Club May 16<sup>th</sup>
3. Fire Starting May 17<sup>th</sup>
4. The Native Plant Sale May 20<sup>th</sup>
5. Kids Fish Day June 3<sup>rd</sup>
6. Wild Outdoor Women June 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>
7. Day Camps start June 12<sup>th</sup>
8. National Mud Day is June 29<sup>th</sup> and will only be held if we are not in a drought.

ii. Job Shadow

1. Blake DePhillips is a Simpson Student who has job-shadowed EE Coordinator Kelsey Longnecker and Naturalist Hannah Hernandez. He has enjoyed his time here at WCCB and has gained knowledge of the conservation world. He plans to go into research after graduating from Simpson College and appreciates the time he has been able to learn from Kelsey and Hannah

iii. Geocaching

1. Mark Metz presented to the board that every year he hosts a Geocaching event at Hickory Hills. This year he was disappointed to see that there is now a cost to rent the facilities as well as requiring insurance. He asked the board to consider allowing him to use the facilities this year or trade the rental for the cleaning of one of the parks. At this time the board discussed options for Mr. Metz and will decide at the June 2023 meeting.

g. Financial Report

- i. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the financial reports. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

h. Approval of Bills

- i. Sue Boll made a motion to approve the claims. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

i. Adjournment

- i. Sue Boll made the motion to adjourn at 6:13pm. Angie Croll seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.